

Plastics Recycling

Before You Recycle...Reduce!

Recycling is great, but you can do more for the environment by reducing the amount of plastic packaging you use.

- Avoid excess packaging—buy foods and beverages in bulk instead of single-serve size plastic bottles, bags and containers.
- Avoid disposables—stick to reusable cups, silverware, containers and bags.
- Reuse containers, packaging and bags before recycling or disposal.

Buy recycled products!

Use your power as a consumer to create demand for products made with recycled content—from furniture to clothing, packaging and housewares. Look for the “made with recycled content” symbol or ask a sales representative which products are made with recycled content whenever you shop.



Montgomery County Recycles!

Recycling is the law in Montgomery County.

Montgomery County has a goal to recycle 50 percent of all waste generated in the County. To reach our goal, we need all of our residents to know what can be recycled and actively participate in the County's comprehensive recycling program.

The County provides weekly recycling collection service to about 208,000 single-family households for mixed paper, cardboard and paperboard; commingled materials (aluminum cans and foil products, bi-metal steel/tin cans, glass bottles and jars and plastic bottles and containers); yard trim materials (grass, leaves, brush and garden trimmings) and Christmas trees.

The County also provides scheduled curbside collection of large scrap metal items such as appliances, metal filing cabinets, metal doors, lawn mowers or grills. To schedule a scrap metal pick-up, just call the Division of Solid Waste Services at **240.777.6410** or visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/scrapmetal by 11:00 a.m. the day before your regular recycling collection day.

For more information on recycling, contact the Montgomery County Division of Solid Waste Services:

Phone: 240.777.6400

Fax: 240.777.6465

TTY: 240.777.6442

Email: recycle@montgomerycountymd.gov

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling



This information is available in an alternate format by calling **Alan Pultyniewicz** at **240.777.6400**.



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Now, Recycle More Plastics in Montgomery County



Recycling program expanded to include plastic bottles, containers and lids including jars, pails/buckets and food-grade tubs.

Summer 2008

Montgomery County

Plastic Recycling is Easier than Ever!

Montgomery County's curbside recycling program is changing! Instead of recycling only plastic bottles with a narrow neck, Montgomery County residents with County-provided recycling collection service can now recycle plastic bottles, containers, and lids (including jars, pails/buckets and food-grade tubs). If you need an additional recycling bin, call 240.777.6410.

Do recycle:

- Plastic bottles such as milk, juice, water, syrup, vegetable oil, salad dressing, detergent and shampoo/conditioner bottles
- Plastic food-grade tubs and lids such as margarine/butter tubs, cottage cheese, yogurt, mayonnaise, dairy topping, peanut butter and salad containers
- Plastic pails/buckets such as ice cream, detergent, pet food and kitty litter containers
- Plastic flower pots
- Plastic beverage cups



It's Easy to Recycle Plastics When You Know the Rules

- Labels and plastic rings around the neck of the bottles are okay.
- Empty the bottles and containers. Please make sure the bottles and containers are emptied of their contents.
- Rinse. The less contamination the better.
- Place plastic bottles, containers and lids in your blue recycling bin with other commingled materials for curbside recycling collection.
- No need to check for the neck or the number. Montgomery County now accepts plastic bottles, food-grade containers, lids, and plastic pails/buckets.

The following types of plastic are not recyclable in the County's curbside recycling program:

- Any plastic bottle or container that held hazardous automotive or garden products such as motor oil, antifreeze and pesticides
- Plastic wrap and bags
- Polystyrene and Styrofoam products

What happens to the plastics that are put in the blue bin and collected by the County?

Plastic bottles, containers and lids are recycled into a wide variety of products that you'll find anywhere you shop.

- The plastics that are collected at the curb are taken to the Montgomery County Recycling Center where they are separated from other commingled materials, such as glass bottles and jars, aluminum cans and foil products and bi-metal steel and tin cans.
- The plastics are separated by type and then baled and sent to processors to be recycled. At the processor, the plastics are cut into flakes and washed. At this point, the labels are removed.
- The plastic flakes are melted and formed into small pellets that manufacturers use to make a host of recycled-content products—clothing, automotive accessories, tote bags, recycling and trash containers, carpeting, synthetic lumber products, toys, sleeping bags, polyester fill, and more.

